REPORT OF THE RARE BOOK DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1938.

July 15, 1933.

Dr. Charles C. Williamson,
Director of Libraries.

Dear Dr. Williamson:

I have the honor to submit the following report on the third year's work of the Rare Book Department:

While the first year of this Department's work may be described as the laying of foundations and as a preliminary covering of its entire ground, the second year was in logical continuation devoted to further expansion and the beginning of inside organization. The third year covered by this report has been almost entirely a year of inner coordination and organization of the material collected during the first two years.

Staff

There was an important change this year. Miss Darthula Wilcox left us on February 15, 1933, to become Librarian of the Public Library, Austin, Texas. This was a distinct loss, for in the two and a half years of her cooperation she became a loyal and efficient member of the staff. The Rare Book Department thanks her for her cooperation and wishes her a very successful career.

Her place was taken by Miss Janet Bogardus, who started in her new position on February 15, 1933. She came to Columbia from the Muhlenberg Branch of the New York Public Library, where she had been First Assistant. In the few months she has been here, she has proved a capable successor to Miss Wilcox in the care of the Seligman Library, and a very willing and congenial assistant in the general work of the Rare Book Department.

Miss Frick has continued to be a responsible and efficient Librarian of the Smith Collection.

Mr. Sidney Kramer, despite his many other obligations, has been a valuable assistant to the Curator of the department. He has completed his undergraduate courses at City College and is now a student in the School of Library Service. It is hoped that this training will makehim a still more useful collaborator in the Rare Book Department.

Relief workers assigned to this Department have been most helpful in lifting much of the mechanical work from the shoulders of our small staff.

Special Collections

Seligman Library

The care of the Seligman Library has proceeded along fairly well-defined lines this year. Dr. Seligman is adding continually to the collection; these books are classified according to the tentative arrangement now in use, listed, and shelved. Many pamphlets dealing with the French Revolution have been added, and volumes of pamphlets belonging to the main library have been broken up, and the individual items needed added to this collection. Of the books remaining at Dr. Seligman's, most of which belong to the University, all of the German and about one-third of the French have been listed.

The number of persons using the library has not been large, but we have been fortunate enough to have had several students with real research problems who have found what they needed in this collection. Although it is not properly cataloged, the

arrangement of the books on the shelves and the temporary cards make it easily available for most uses.

Part of the work in the Seligman Library consists, of course, in caring for the physical condition of the books and the arrangement of the rooms. Dr. Seligman seems satisfied with the care of the library and works here, himself, regularly.

Dale Collection

The cataloging of the Dale Collection of weights and measures has been kept up to date, and the books transferred from the main library recataloged. Class numbers and subject headings have not yet been assigned.

Smith Collection

In the year which has ensued since the last report, the listing and arranging of material has been almost completed. This includes all the books, pamphlets, medals, portraits and letters in the library. There remain to be arranged the documents and some material still retained at Dr. Smith's home. Actual cataloging of the library was begun in May and in that month 100 volumes were finished.

Reference work has been varied, both for Dr. Smith and other scholars. Some of this work has been carried on by correspondence and through use of the photostat. The library sponsored an exhibition in honor of Dr. Einstein during his visit to New York in April. This exhibit consisted of books, portraits, letters and medals of outstanding mathematicians. Most of this material was from the Smith Collection.

Beginning in September material will be transferred from

Dr. Smith's home; arrangement and storing of the documents will be completed; and the work of cataloging and classifying will proceed.

Plimpton Rooms

In the absence of any new additions to the Plimpton Collection, the rooms have proved useful for various other purposes. Foremost among them, the care of the Hamilton Fish material, which is being edited for publication by Professor Allan Nevins and others, may be mentioned.

Accessions

Funds

No allotment of funds was made the Rare Book Department this year. However, through the use of General Library funds, it was possible to acquire a good many of the current publications and also a certain amount of older material. Since the work this year was concentrated very decidedly upon the organization of material purchased during the first two years, this arrangement was satisfactory. However, this work will be completed in the mear future and the development of the Department will again depend very directly upon the question of funds. It must be said here that certain very desirable items which were offered had to be turned down. Some of them are still here on approval, and we sincerely hope that it will be possible to make their purchase. No doubt, in the future, the medium of "Bibliotheca Columbiana" will be most useful in drawing the attention of the friends of the Library to these needs.

Gifts

Outstanding gifts of the year were: the set so far issued, and the subscription to the GESAMTKATALOG DER WIEGENDRUCKE, presented

by the Mergenthaler Linotype Company; a set of eleven panels demonstrating Illustration Techniques, from Professor James K. Finch; a secondhand type mould, from the Typographic Library and Museum of the American Type Founders Company; some outstanding examples of their work from the Industrial Printing Works, Prague, Czechoslavakia; a set of fifty of his works on the history of printing, by Douglas C. McMurtrie; the Book Clinic Exhibition of American Trade Books, which is the second of these shows given us through the kind offices of the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

Institutions from which we received gifts this year included the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, the Newberry Library, the New York Public Library, and the Pratt Institute Free Library.

We note that contributions to this Department from printers and publishers form more than a third of this group's gifts to the Library.

The following donations might be especially mentioned: Specimens from typefounders such as the American Type Founders Company, the Continental Type Founders Association, the Lanston Monotype Machine Company, the Mergenthaler Linotype Company, and the German foundries Bauer, Berthold, Stempel; from printers such as the Chiswick Press, the Curwen Press, the Harbor Press, Isidor Kner,

the Marchbanks Press, and an especially beautiful specimen of their work from the firm of J. J. Augustin in Darmstadt; from papermakers, notably the Japan Paper Company. Individuals who might be mentioned are: Mr. Henry Lewis Bullen for his interest in securing for us the hand mould; Mrs. Elizabeth Morrow for her gift of "Casa Mañana" which is a description of the late Ambassador's home in Mexico, beautifully printed at the Spiral Press; Messrs. Laurance B. Siegfried and Constant Southworth for their donations of rare examples of the work of the American designer W. A. Dwiggins.

Mr. C. C. Kalbfleisch continued his numerous and excellent choices for the Library, of which many came to the Rare Book Department. Dr. Smith and Professor Seligman continued to add to their collections, and the Library received a few small gifts from the staff of the Rare Book Department.

Transfers We have continued to make transfers along the same lines as last year.

An interesting opportunity afforded itself at the end of the academic year, 1931-32, to check up on our purchasing policy in the two

years since the establishment of the Department. In the issues of July 2 and August 6, 1932, of Publishers' Weekly, Mr. Paul Johnston published "A checklist of Books about Printing and Allied Subjects: 150 volumes... chosen with the View of Forming an Introduction to the Study of the History of Printing, Typography, and Book-making." Five libraries were cited: Newberry Library, New York Public Library, Boston Public Library, Pratt Institute Free Library and Columbia University Library. We are gratified to report that 110 volumes out of 150 selected books were in this Department of the Library. Since then, we have been able, of course, to fill many of the remaining gaps.

The most important of the internal tasks, as referred to above, were Cataloging and Binding.

Cataloging

In the last year's report it was stated that the new classification for the books in our care had been finished and that work on the catalog was proceeding. Cataloging since has made rapid progress and the classification so far has proved a useful one. The following figures may be of interest:

1750 books were transferred since 1930
250 of these were cataloged from 1930 to 1932.
1250 books have been cataloged since July 1932
250 books of the transferred group are yet to be cataloged.

These 250 books should be completed easily within the next year, as well as other books which will be transferred during the regular course of work.

The new reference works added to the collection have been classified and cataloged as they arrived.

Miss Terry continued as usual on the Specimen Collection

Some slides have been added to our collection, and a catalog of them has been planned for some time, and is now well under way.

Binding

Real progress has been made in binding. The technique now employed is a departure from that of the first two years. Then we were content to use the regular work of the usual library binders for ordinary material, but enlisted outside help for all special work.

Now, this use of outside help has been continued on a reduced scale for special material, but the important innovation is the improvement of the regular work done through the regular channels, and the handing over to these agencies problems not only of rebinding, but also of repair work and other more difficult jobs.

This improvement of the regular work is the result of a persistent if not obstinate supervision of the materials used for binding, the manner of their selection and combination, and the quality and arrangement of lettering on the back. As a result of these experiments, a style-

book of some forty numbered models is now in use and through it, entirely durable and fitting, yet quite attractive, bindings can be had very easily.

Rebinding is done with a greater respect and regard for the date of issue of the book and the probably style of its original binding.

The price of such work, it must be admitted, is still womewhat more than that of the binding done for other departments of the Library. This seems justifiable as an experiment. We firmly believe that a much higer level than the present one could be worked out for all binding without additional cost. Library bindings do not have to be unattractive; improvement is a question first of proper instruction, and secondly, of strictly cooperative efforts among librarians.

A first step in securing this cooperation was the Curator's talk at the 1932 Eastern College Librarians Conference. Since then requests have been received that the talk be published, together with some actual specimens of materials and their combination. The Japan Paper Company has very kindly offered to furnish some of these materials whenever we are ready to use them.

The new course in Bookbinding to be given next year will not only make use of these standards, but will doubtless result in their becoming more practical and more perfect as well. Also in connection with this new course, the Avery Library collection on Bookbinding will be transferred. Consent has already been given.

Professor Seligman has requested the cooperation of the Curator in looking after the binding of the pamphlets which are being added constantly to his collection. Very little binding has been done on the Smith Collection since it arrived here, but specimens have been done for that library from the Department stylebook. It will be remembered that there is a very great deal of unbound material in the Smith Collection.

University Community

Library School

This is an account of events which will serve to illustrate the Department's position in the life of the University community. A new course given in the 1932 Summer Session "An Introduction to the Study of Fifteenth Century Books (Incunabula)" fitted in well with the development of the Department. It is hoped that the course will be given again. The course suffered severely from the fact that most of the incunabula reference material, which had to be used daily in and out of class, was sent over by the Reading Room daily for the duration of the class and then had to be returned at once. This makes it clear, how necessary the transfer of this material to the Rare Book Department really is.

It must be said that the efforts to induce Dr. Waitenkampf to transfer his course to 504 Schermerhorn were not successful. However, we have at least some results of Mr. Kramer's energetic efforts in this connection - namely, a good Desiderata list in Book Illustration, and the concentration of most of the available Library material within the Rare Book Department.

In Library Service el36, Spring, 1932, at the request of Mr. Cannon of Yale University Library, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Berry worked on term papers which were developed into a report on "Specifi-

cations for the Reprinting of Books for Library Use." This has now been issued by the A. L. A. as a part of a comprehensive report by a special committee on library reprints.

Journalism — On May 5, 1933, a lecture was given by the Curator in Mr. Oswald's course on Typography. As a result of this contact, we feel that we have something to offer students in the School of Journalism.

English Department — Professor Baldwin again brought over a class, this time on Monday, May 15. Professors Greet and Ayres, on May 11 and May 16 respectively, brought classes for the first time to the Rare Book Department. It is felt ~~for an hour with the Curator, who feels~~ that this growth indicates a healthy interest on the part of the faculty and students of the Department of English

College — We regret to report that no progress has been made in this direction.

Typographical Service — Various members of the University Community have consulted the Department with reference to their printing problems. Our service has extended from mere recommendations to the complete designing of a book.

Book Study Club — This informal organization for former students of Book Production Classes, librarians, and interested persons from outside, has kept up the interest of its members. The monthly meeting of the second year were well attended, and plans for a third year, prepared with the assistance of Mr. Roger Howson, Librarian of the University, are well under way.

Library Exhibits

Through the winter an exhibition of TYPE SPECIMENS arranged by Mr. Kramer was on view on the fifth floor of Schermerhorn Hall. These cases in the corridor were later used for an exhibit of selected specimens of COLOR IN BOOK ILLUSTRATION, arranged by Dr. Lehmann-Haupt, who also brought together a collection of FIFTY BOOKS ABOUT BOOKMAKING for the Twelfth Annual Conference On Printing Education, June 26, 27, 28, 1933, and which is more fully noted later in this report. From July 1-15 there was a composite showing of this exhibition together with the FIFTY AMERICAN BOOKS of 1933, the FIFTY ENGLISH BOOKS of 1932, and the FIFTY GERMAN BOOKS of 1930, in Avery Library.

Loan Exhibits

In April we contributed material to two exhibitions. We loaned material from our Specimen Collection of European and American Fine Printing for an exhibition of Fine Book Printing Since the World War, which was held at the Junior League, New York. Everything was returned safely.

At the request of Mr. Royal L. Morrison, Librarian, we supplied De Witt Clinton High School with an entire little exhibit, The Development of Printing Types. This, too, was returned safely.

Relations with the Printing Industry.

Fifty Books

The Curator of the Department was appointed by the American Institute of Graphic Arts to the Chairmanship of the Fifty Books Committee. He achieved somewhat revolutionary results with a rather conservative jury. An "all time record" for the number of trade books in all the shows was established. I

greater number of different printers and designers were represented then ever before. He has been reelected for the coming year.

Twelfth Annual Conference of Printing Education

When it was first decided that the Twelfth Annual Conference on Printing Education should be held at Columbia University this year, the University Library was asked to prepare an exhibition which would be a contribution to the work of the conference, and would show at the same time, something of the regular work that is going on at Columbia in the field of the arts of the books. The program of the Conference this year was devoted to the appreciation of printing and the promotion among the teachers of printing, of a viewpoint that has hitherto been somewhat neglected. This is exactly the viewpoint which is being steadily encouraged at Columbia University through courses in the School of Library Service and the Rare Book Department of the Library, and compliance with this request of the committee planning the Conference fell

Foundry for the Weiss types used, the Japan Paper Company for supplying the text and cover papers, and the George Grady Press for hand composition, presswork and binding.

Lectures

On several occasions during the last year, the Curator was asked to give a lecture in his field. They follow:

October 18, 1932, at the New School for Social Research, on Manuscript Books and their Contribution to Early Printing.

November 16, 1932, at the Conference of Eastern College Librarians; On the Rebinding of Older Books.

April 4, 1933, at the Pratt Institute Free Library, on the opening night of the Fifty Books of the Year. This was attended by the Archons of Colophon.

April 10, 1933, at the Junior League, on Modern Bookmaking, in appreciation of the aforementioned exhibition.

June 13, 1933, at the New York Public Library, on Modern Illustration and Color Printing of Children's Books in Germany.

On Wednesday February 22nd, 1933, we had the pleasure of listening to an address by Dr. E. P. Goldschmidt of London on Mediaeval Manuscripts, introduced by the Curator.

A distinguished visitor from overseas, Dr. Aloys Ruppel, gave a short address at the Deutsches Haus on the purpose of his visit to install the Gutenberg workshop from the Gutenberg Museum at Mainz at the Chicago World Fair. This was after

a dinner given in his honor on the evening of his arrival in the United States, May 12th, at the Faculty Club, with heads of libraries and printing industry executives attending.

Publications

The publications for which the Curator is responsible this year are:

1. Book Illustration in Augsburg in the Fifteenth Century, published in Metropolitan Museum Studies Volume 1_V, Part One, 1932. This is a translated excerpt from his dissertation.
2. Lewis Carroll, 1832-1932: Zum 100 Geburtstag, Vienna, Herbert Reichner, 1932.

   An attempt at a more permanent record of some material in the famous exhibition, with especial attention to illustrations, and intended as a supplement to the Columbia University Press Catalogue.
3. Books about Bookmaking in the monthly Bookmaking Department of Publishers' Weekly continued.
4. The catalog of Fifty Books about Bookmaking mentioned more fully above.

Expansion

Expansion of the collection in many ways has proceeded apace this year, for although we had very little money of our own this year, we were allowed to draw on general funds.

Particulars at the present state of the use of our shelves follow:

The S pecimen Collection now fills com-

pletely Room 504 Schermerhorn, and as many more are awaiting, in the stacks, classification and cataloging. The Reference Works are overflowing Room 504, and many are still in the stacks. The stacks are fully occupied with our collections of broadsides and posters and uncataloged books and with the Joan of Arc and Mary Queen of Scots collections; the upper tier with Smith and Seligman material for which there is no room on the other side of the hall.

It will be remembered that a new group of cases had to be installed in Seligman Room 3, and that Room 1 has overflowed by several cases into the next. Professor Seligman, as noted, is adding continually to his library.

At present there is already no place for the permanent exhibitions which proved themselves of great value to students and visitors in their former places in the cases of the Rare Book Department.

Reserve books for Library School courses were previously placed in empty cases in Room 504. Now they are, at great detrimen t to the efficiency of the Department, placed on the study tables in that room. This overcrowding, we believe, could be rectified

by the installing of some open shelves at the back of the room.

If we are allowed to make deductions from past and present history for the future, we would say that we are now logically ready to move to larger quarters, and that rather than being lost in a larger setting, increased efficiency in the use of our present material will result. As for a very particular example - our very valuable prospectus file, type and paper specimens, and broadside and poster collections are almost unusable in their present positions in the stack. It is hoped that provision will be made in the alterations to the General Library for such equipment as will make this material both safe and available for use.

A great many ideas have assembled through observations of the workings of this Department in the past three years, ~~[illegible]~~ which might be useful in planning new quarters for the collection in his charge. The Curator would be most pleased to render what assistance he could to the Librarian and the Director of Libraries in ~~the~~ remodelling the old rooms for their new purpose.

Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt

Excerpt from -3- Dr. Lehmann-Haupt's annual report, June 1933.

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